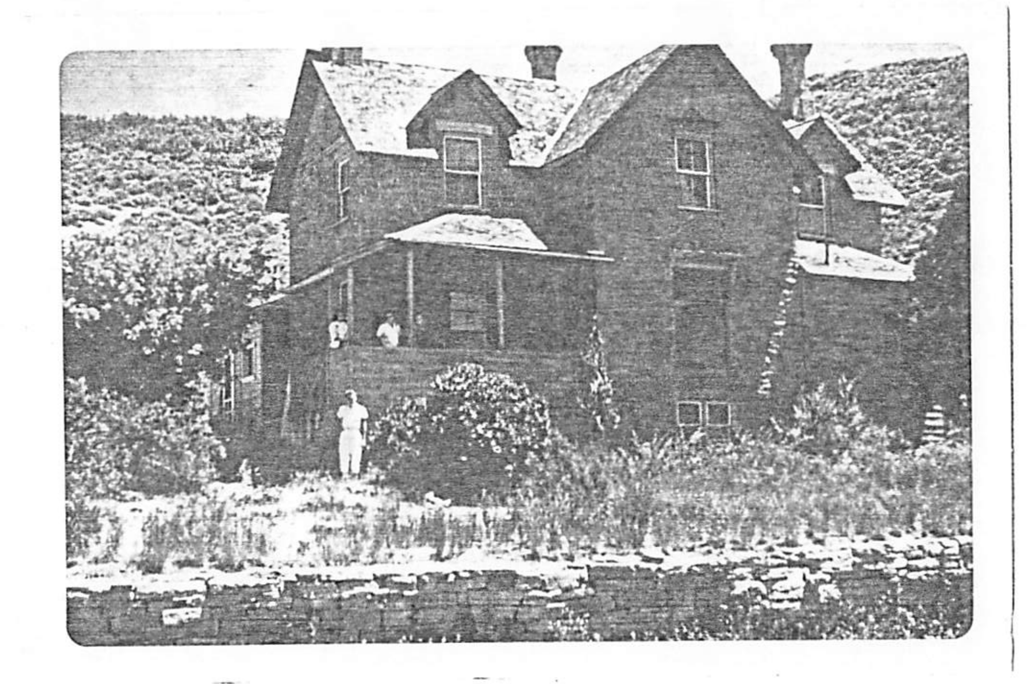


WILLIAM MOULTON'S RANCH

William and his wives, Mary LaVina Lee and Mary Ann Davis and their children moved to a ranch nine miles north of Heber City, Utah - just south and east of the Ontario Drain Tunnel known as Ross Hollow, then Moultonville and later called Elkhorn. It consisted of about 100 acres. This big ranch house was built in 1877.

It was a big and beautiful home, with 14 rooms, petitioned down the middle and both sides the same for his two wives. It was built from sandstone brought from east of Heber. Two front rooms for his two wives were separated by a big beautiful parlor. There were two big staircases leading to the upper story where the bedrooms were. Two bathrooms, a hugh panty (which was almost a refrigerator), and three full rooms and a vegetable cellar in the basement. The floors were cedar, 1-1/2 inches thick.

Outside the house was a two story milk shed with a pipeline which led to the dairyroom in the house and back to the calf shed for the skim milk. Inside the barn was a big slaughter house, an ice house and a well. The layout was complete beyond imagination for those early days.

This ranch was so famous that the coach line from Heber to Park City built a side road up against the hill so passengers could view back and front of the spread.

A Branch of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints was set up there and William was the Presiding Elder. William had secured a beef and milk route contract from the Ontario Mining Company at Park City. He built up a prosperous business, employing many young men. He would not hire a man who smoked or drank and many fathers asked him to hire and help their sons who had the habit. He did but if they didn't quit, he sent them home.

William seemed to have had the "King Midas" touch for everything he touched prospered. He helped farmers in the valley by buying stock and hay besides what he raised. He set up a complete spread to supply milk, butter, meat, eggs and vegetables for the booming mining town of Park City, which was over the hill about 6 miles west.

The business in Park City was fabulous. He hauled milk in a spring wagon or sleigh and went over the summit and down through Deer Valley into Park City. Ladies would come out to meet him with containers which he filled with a dipper. He also took orders for delivery of mutton, pork and veal.

Upon one occasion, the road was impassable so he transferred his load of meat and milk to an ore car at the mouth of the Ontario Tunnel and transferred it underground to Daily West Shaft (approximately 3 miles). It was hauled through and came out at the Daily Judge Tunnel in Park City and there loaded on a dray (freight wagon) for delivery.

William was only 40 years old when he took typhoid pneumonia and died.